



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 830**

*January Session, 2001*

Substitute House Bill No. 6135

*House of Representatives, May 29, 2001*

The Committee on Public Safety reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING INDIAN GAMING COMPACTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) (a) The Governor may establish, within the Governor's  
2 office, an Office of State-Tribal Relations. The office shall be staffed by  
3 a person or persons with expertise in Indian law and shall assist the  
4 Governor in a research and advisory capacity with respect to laws and  
5 regulations concerning federally-recognized Indian tribes and the  
6 social, economic and legal relationship between the state and the  
7 federally-recognized Indian tribes in the state.

8 (b) An advisory committee to the Office of State-Tribal Relations  
9 shall be established to inform the office of critical issues affecting state-  
10 tribal relations. The advisory committee shall be composed of the  
11 following members: One representative from the Governor's office;  
12 one representative from each of Connecticut's federally-recognized  
13 tribes; the president pro tempore of the Senate, or a designee; the  
14 minority leader of the Senate or a designee; the speaker of the House of

15 Representatives, or a designee; the minority leader of the House of  
16 Representatives, or a designee; the chairpersons and ranking members  
17 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
18 cognizance of matters relating to public safety, or their designees; and  
19 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or a designee.

20 (c) The Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall employ  
21 such professional and research staff with expertise in Indian law as  
22 deemed necessary to assist the General Assembly in a research and  
23 advisory capacity with respect to laws and regulations concerning  
24 federally-recognized Indian tribes and the social, economic and legal  
25 relationship between the state and federally-recognized Indian tribes  
26 in the state. The Office of Legislative Research shall report to the  
27 General Assembly every two years on enacted legislation and  
28 regulatory matters that impact state-tribal relations.

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Cost

**Affected Agencies:** Governor's Office, Legislative Management,  
Office of Policy and Management

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

The bill allows the Governor to establish an Office of State-Tribal Relations to be staffed by experts in Indian law. An advisory committee to the Office of State-Tribal Relations shall also be established. In addition, the Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall employ professional and research staff with expertise in Indian law.

The bill may result in an estimated cost of \$200,000 to the Governor's Office as a result of staffing the tribal relations office (Attorney, Paralegal and Secretary). An additional cost of \$78,000 will result due to fringe benefits.

As a result of the members participating on the advisory committee a potential minimal cost and workload increase (or reallocation) may result although this impact to the participating agency's can be handled within the associated available resources.

The Joint Committee on Legislative Management (JCLM) will incur an estimated cost of \$165,000 - \$185,000 due to the employing of professional and research staff to assist the General Assembly with Indian law and related issues (an additional cost of \$65,000 - \$72,000 will result due to fringe benefits). The cost may vary due to the staffing required in order to respond appropriately to the needs of the General Assembly in regards to the provisions in the bill. Costs include a Legislative Attorney, Analyst (Researcher) and a support staff. The additional positions will be responsible for the research and legal concerns with respect to laws and regulations concerning federally recognized Indian tribes and reporting to the General Assembly on enacted legislation and regulatory matters that impact state-tribal relations.

Funding for both the Office of State-Tribal Relations and the staff to be employed by JCLM is not included in sHB 6668 (the Appropriations Act, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee).

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6135

***AN ACT CONCERNING INDIAN GAMING COMPACTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the governor to establish within his office an Office of State-Tribal Relations, staffed by people with Indian law expertise, to advise and conduct research for him concerning (1) laws and regulations on federally recognized tribes and (2) the state's social, economic, and legal relationship with such tribes. It requires the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, as it considers necessary, to employ professional and research staff with such expertise to similarly advise and conduct research for the General Assembly.

It requires the Office of Legislative Research to report to the General Assembly every two years on laws and regulations that impact state-tribal relations.

It requires a committee to be established to advise the Office of State-Tribal Relations of critical issues affecting state-tribal relations. The advisory committee's members consist of one representative from the governor's office and each of the state's federally recognized tribes, and the following people or their designees:

1. Public Safety Committee chairmen and ranking members
2. Office of Policy and Management secretary
3. Senate president pro tempore
4. House speaker
5. Senate minority leader
6. House minority leader

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Legislative History***

On May 15 and 23, the House referred the bill (File 460) to the Legislative Management and Public Safety committees, respectively. Legislative Management reported it out without change on May 22. On May 24, Public Safety replaced the original bill, which (1) required the governor to negotiate in good faith with federally recognized tribes, (2) required him to develop a municipal impact compensation plan and submit it to the legislature, and (3) gave the legislature a large role in compact approvals.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17      Nay 2

Legislative Management Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 17      Nay 14

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19      Nay 0